

# Alaska NAEP Newsletter

## NAEP-TIMSS Linking Study Allows International Benchmarking



Fall 2010

***“NAEP is a valuable, well-regarded resource. It has consistently defined high expectations for students and provided a common benchmark by which states can compare their achievement.”***

Comparing the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics and the NAEP framework, ACHIEVE report.

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*To learn more about NAEP in Alaska:*

**Alaska NAEP Website**  
<http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/naep.html>

- The President, Congress, and policymakers use NAEP to develop ways to improve education.
- NAEP provides a common yardstick for measuring the progress of students' education across the country.

The 2011 administration of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) will give states the unique opportunity to compare their eighth grade students' math and science knowledge and skills to that of their peers around the world. The comparison will be possible because of a linking study between NAEP and Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) taking place in 2011.

TIMSS is an international assessment that provides data on the mathematics and science achievement of students in the US and from more than 60 countries. The NAEP-TIMSS linking study will give states projected TIMSS scores based on their grade 8 NAEP math and science scores.

Students in grade 8 will take NAEP reading, mathematics, and science assessments. Students in grade 4 will take math and reading assessments only. The NAEP assessment window is January 24 through March 4, 2011. NAEP hires field staff to go to schools to administer the NAEP, which takes about 70 minutes of student time.

The 2011 administration of NAEP will be the fifth administration of NAEP in Alaska since 2003. NAEP serves as the common measurement of student achievement for the nation and allows state performance to be compared to the nation and other states.

The National Indian Education Study (NIES) will again be conducted as part of the NAEP. The NIES fulfills a mandate under an executive order to assist American Indian/Alaska Native students in meeting the challenging academic standards set forth in the No Child Left Behind Act in a manner consistent with tribal languages, cultures and traditions.

See page 2 for more information about the NIES and TIMSS.



# NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION STUDY



The National Indian Education Study is designed to describe the condition of education for American Indian and Alaska Native students in the United States. This federally funded study is a collaborative effort to ensure that programs that serve American Indian and Alaska Native children are of the highest quality and meet their unique educational and culturally related needs.

The goal of the National Indian Education Study (NIES) is to collect information on academic achievement and educational experiences of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) students in order to understand and address their academic challenges.

Part I of the study is the NAEP reading and mathematics achievement of AI/AN students. Part II of the study is an Indian Education Survey, which asks AI/AN students, their teachers, and school principals about the inclusion of Native languages and cultural perspectives in the curriculum and about interactions between the school and the AI/AN community.

In Alaska, parent permission must be given for

students to participate in surveys and questionnaires. The Alaska NAEP coordinator and NIES contractor, Kauffman & Associates, Inc., will be conducting outreach efforts this school year in order to increase student participation in the NIES survey.

In Alaska, AI/AN students are around 25% of the student population, but nationally, they are only 1% of the student population. NAEP is oversampling AI/AN students in 6 states in order to be able to report scores for AI/AN students for more states. Also, Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools are included in NAEP as part of the NIES. Since they are not operated by states, BIE schools would not normally be included in the NAEP. Find out more about the NIES at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/nies/>.



## 2011 NAEP Will Give International Math and Science Comparisons

NAEP is conducting a special linking study as part of the 2011 administration that will allow states to see how they compare to other countries that take part in the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS). NAEP mathematics and reading scores will be released in the fall of 2011. The projected grade 8 TIMSS scores will be released at the end of 2012.

TIMSS was first administered in 1995 and is in its fifth cycle. In 2011, more than 60 countries will participate in TIMSS. The data from the assessment will be used to evaluate how the knowledge and skills of U.S. students compare to those of their peers in other participating countries.

The 2011 science assessment will be only the second time Alaska has participated in the NAEP science assessment. The first time was in 1996. Students at grade 4 will take only the reading and mathematics assessments in 2011.

TIMSS complements what we learn from national assessments by identifying the strengths and weaknesses of student performance relative to students around the world. The results inform national discussions about education as well as international competitiveness. More information can be found at <http://nces.ed.gov/timss/>.

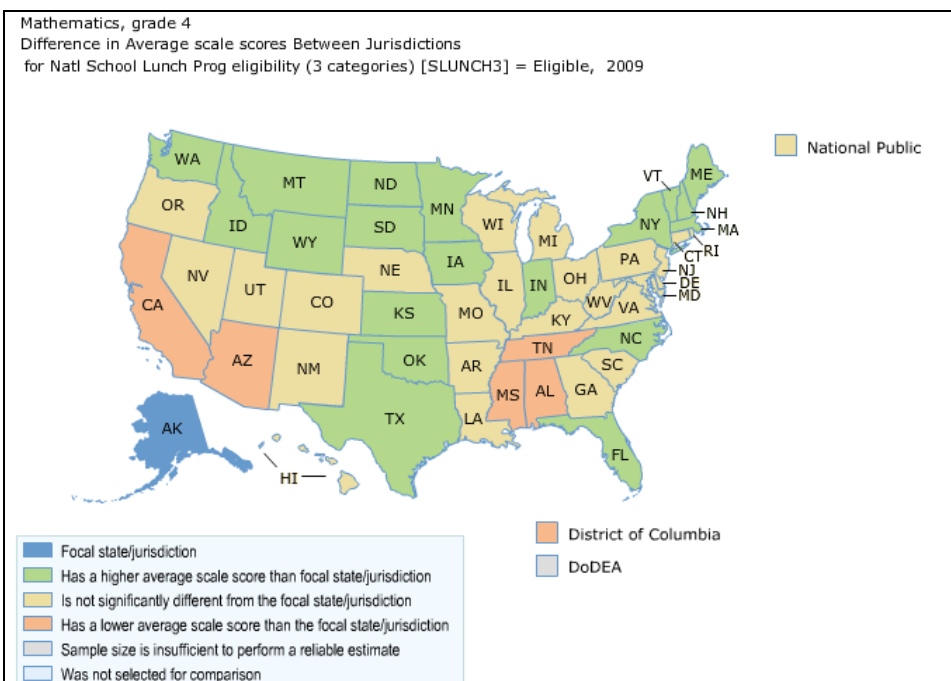
Trends in  
International  
Mathematics  
and Science Study  
(TIMSS)  
2011



# NAEP Allows Comparisons to the Nation and Other States by Different Variables

All NAEP data is available on the NAEP Data Explorer at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/statecomparisons/>. NAEP reports results by sex, ethnicity, disability status, free and reduced lunch eligibility, and English language learner status. The following maps show how Alaska students eligible for free or reduced lunch do in mathematics compared to eligible students in other states. Similar maps can be produced for all variables reported by NAEP.

The maps are color coded to show which states/jurisdictions have statistically higher scale scores, the same scale scores, and lower scale scores. The online map is interactive; different states can be chosen as the point of comparison with the click of a mouse.

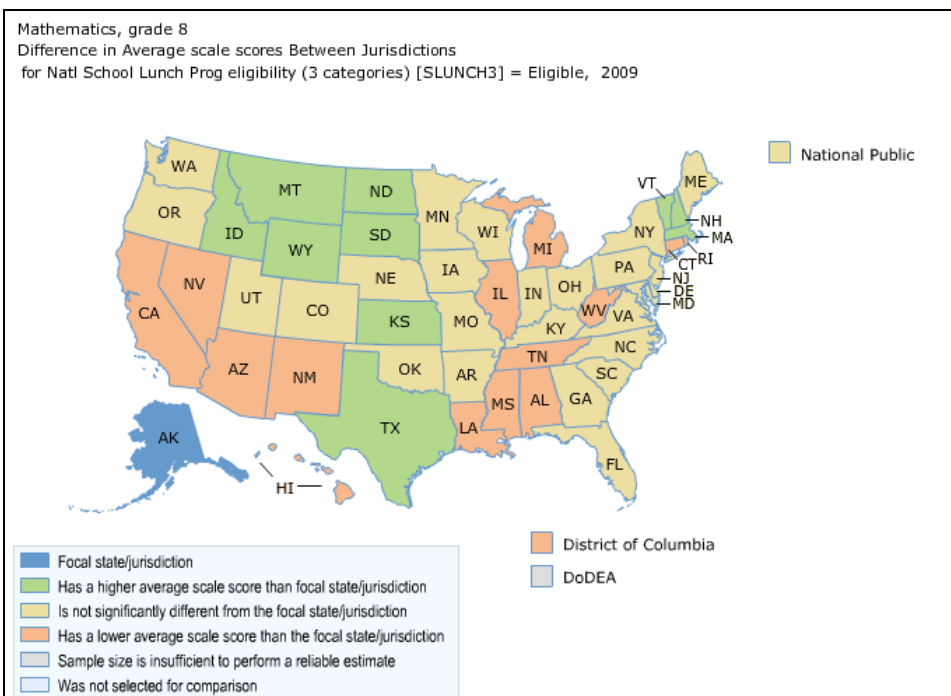


In 2009, the average grade 4 mathematics score for students eligible for free or reduced lunch in Alaska was

- lower than those in 19 states/jurisdictions
- higher than those in 6 states/jurisdictions
- not significantly different from those in 25 states/jurisdictions

Percentage of FRL students

Alaska 44%  
Nation 48%



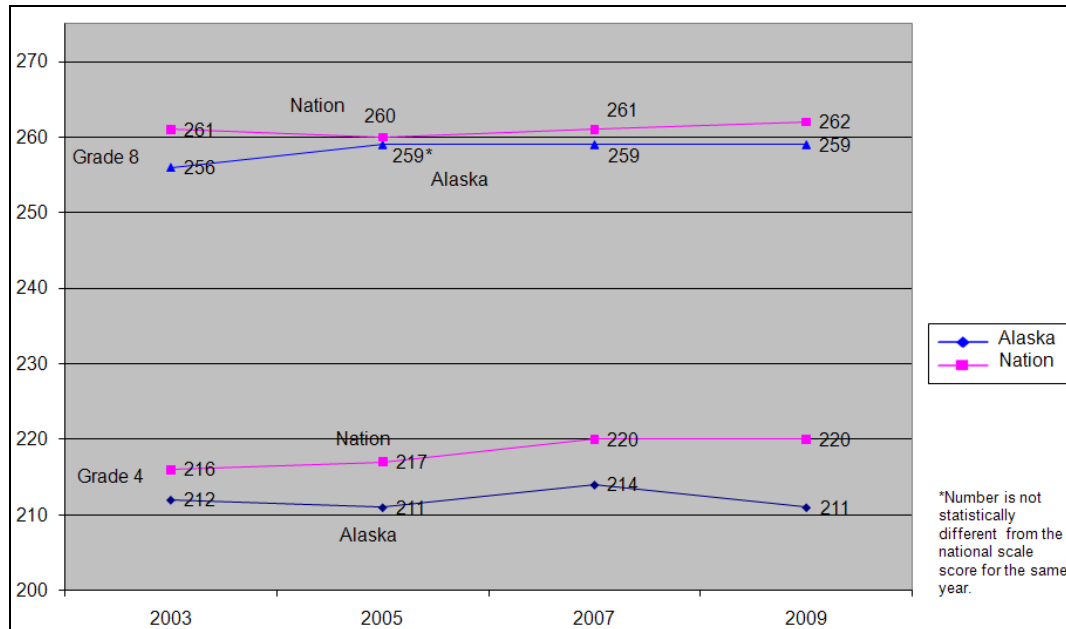
In 2009, the average grade 8 mathematics score for students eligible for free or reduced lunch in Alaska was

- lower than those in 10 states/jurisdictions
- higher than those in 15 states/jurisdictions
- not significantly different from those in 25 states/jurisdictions

Percentage of FRL students

Alaska 36%  
Nation 43%

# Alaska Shows Growth in Reading for Grade 8 since 2003 No Growth for Grade 4, a Reverse of the National Trend



Alaska is one of 29 states with no statistically significant change in grade 4 reading scores from 2003 to 2009. Grade 4 reading scores increased in 22 states/jurisdictions from 2003 to 2009, and scores decreased in one state.

Alaska is one of only 8 states/jurisdictions with a statistically significant gain in grade 8 reading scores from 2003 to 2009. Grade 8 reading scores in 41 states/jurisdictions did not change from 2003 to 2009, and scores decreased in three states

## NAEP is “a national treasure.”

Deputy Commissioner, National Center for Education Statistics, Stuart Kerachsky quoted in “NAGB: Wrestling With Common Standards, Testing Exclusions,” *Curriculum Matters, Education Week: Blogs*. Web. 17 Sept. 2010.

## NAEP Resources:

The NAEP is a highly respected assessment and is often called “the gold standard of assessment.” The NAEP Assessment Toolbox shows how NAEP questions can be used instructionally. Each question in the Toolbox is aligned to an Alaska Grade Level Expectation.

The Toolbox (and more information about the NAEP in Alaska) can be found at

<http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/naep.html>

## Recent Reports That Make Use of NAEP Data

The Black White Achievement Gap: When Progress Stopped. ETS Policy Information Report

“The NAEP data have provided a window on the gap and is the major source of nationally representative achievement data.”

<http://www.ets.org/Media/Research/pdf/PICBWGAP.pdf>

The 2009 Brown Center Report on American Education: How Well Are American Students Learning?

“The study is a follow-up to a 2009 Fordham Institute paper documenting that the gap between high- and low-achieving students has been shrinking in recent years. The data in Part I show that the trend, which began sometime around 1998 or 1999, is historically unprecedented and extends across subjects (reading and math), grades (fourth and eighth), and tests (long-term trend and main NAEP).”

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2010/0317\\_education\\_loveless/0317\\_education\\_loveless.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2010/0317_education_loveless/0317_education_loveless.pdf)